

申请者背景与问题:

Master AD, Financial Engineering
Cornell University
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

你好，我收到 Cornell 和 Michigan 这两个学校的金融工程硕士 AD，由于两者排名很近，我不知道应该选择哪个，请给予帮助。下面是 3 个具体的问题。

1. 请分析一下在选择不同学校的金融工程硕士 AD 时应该考虑哪些因素，比如学校声誉，program structure，实习/就业情况等，除了这些容易想到的，还有什么其他因素需要考虑。
2. 请详细分析一下选择 Cornell University 的利与弊
3. 请详细分析一下选择 University of Michigan 的利与弊

咨询师 #1:

1. 请分析一下在选择不同学校的金融工程硕士 AD 时应该考虑哪些因素，比如学校声誉，program structure，实习/就业情况等，除了这些容易想到的，还有什么其他因素需要考虑。

答：首先，衷心祝贺你拿到这两所学校的 AD。FE 的项目是 Professional Degree，尽管 FE 的学生在入学前的背景(相对于其它 program)有丰富的多样性，但是学生在毕业后百分之百走向 industry。因此，学生在入学前就必须清晰地明确自己的求学目标——直接就业(而不是继续深造读 phd，并且美国的商学院的 phd 项目极少有从 FE 招生的先例)。基于这样的目标，“就业情况”是所有因素中最需要重视的因素。其它的因素：reputation, curriculum 这些均为这个因素服务的参考因素。其它因素：比如上课的 faculty，学校的住宿条件，生活成本，所在地气候等都可以作为参考的依据之一，但这些因素第一相对次要，第二主观成分较大，因人而宜。

建议你发 email 向两个 program 的 director: Nejat Seyhun 和 Kathryn Caggiano，索要项目的 placement after immediate graduation 的 stat。这 2 个 program 招生的总人数基本相近所以比较起来比较容易。

2. 请详细分析一下选择 Cornell University 的利与弊

答：Cornell 是 ivy 名校，在综合 reputation 上要高于 Michigan，所以如果选择 Cornell 就需要充分发挥学校的声誉优势。FE 专业的 ranking 较高。加上第三个学期有一个 Wall St 的实习（不知道 michigan 是否今年也开设了实习？）。因此这三点在就业上有很大的加分。当然 Cornell 也不是完美的，一个 FE 的课程体系设计偏向 OR(毕竟是 or 开的课)，运筹等工学课程占学习比重较大，对于中国来的学生更希望了解 institutional 的规则。如果你更希望从“文科”的角度更深入地了解美国金融的体系，那么这样的课程就不够贴近应用。其次从大的 campus 的氛围来说，整个 Cornell 校园的 experience 不如 michigan 更具人性化。

3. 请详细分析一下选择 University of Michigan 的利与弊

答：Cornell 的利就是 Michigan 的弊，Cornell 的弊就是 Michigan 的利。Michigan 的 FE program 设在商学院，所以在课程的设计上更加 flexible，并且贴近 industry 的实际应用，这是它的优势之一。其次，Michigan 是公立大学，所以从规章制度上可能更具人性化一些。当然 Michigan 离 New York City 较远（当然 Cornell 也不近就是了），单凭自己的力量找工作会比较麻烦一些。学校排名也不如 Cornell 那么响亮。

希望我的回答能给您有所帮助。

咨询师 #2:

My advice:

1. Since they are both AD's which means no scholarships, I would say the following factors shall be included in decision making:

1) Your financial soundness (different programs have different tuitions and living costs) - you may need to judge from your own financial conditions

2) Location - the importance of location is beyond your expectations. In my opinion, big city > small city, the nearer to big cities, the better

3) Program size - the more people in your program, the more fierce the competition and the less resources you can get

4) Professor connection - whether professors have connections with industry

2. Cornell is Ivy League University, which means alumni resources will be rich. Also it is nearer to NYC, in my view more companies will go there for recruiting. In addition, as far as I know they have smaller programs, in that sense you will have less competition and the program directors can be more helpful in assisting individual students.

But the program is more to the side of quantitative analysis, which may require more effort in Maths, CS and so on. I am not sure whether that's your career aspiration.

3. Michigan has the FE program for more than 10 years. Previously it did run well. But due to the location issue and bigger class, I have to say it is not as good as before. But still, it has the following advantages:

1) There are still big companies coming to recruit. And being adjacent to Chicago, a lot of trading firms will come over and Michigan got alumni in those trading firms.

2) You have better flexibilities in choosing your curriculum at Michigan. You can choose a lot of courses from business school which means you have a lot more tracks varying from Investment Banking, Investment management to trading and quantitative analysis.

3) Michigan has some new field study projects which can give student hands on experience into industry, which can be really helpful for international students in looking for an internship.

4) Michigan has high recognition in Asia. So if you apply for Asian positions you get high chances for interviews.

5) GPA is generally high which can give you a nice resume.

Disadvantages:

To sum up the first paragraph, the location is not really good. Also class is generally big with some 50+ students. Career service is not really much and you may need to reach out really hard to make yourself stand out.

Also tuition is not really cheap. It is some 17000+ for one semester. Also you need to attend a mandatory summer program which costs like 5000+.